

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 997

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PEARCE.

Read 1st time February 1, 2016, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

6305S.01I

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto five new sections relating to higher education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto five new sections, to be known as sections 173.2500, 173.2505, 173.2510, 173.2515, and 173.2520, to read as follows:

173.2500. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Approved dual credit provider", a board approved, accredited Missouri higher education institution that provides dual credit courses;

(2) "Board", coordinating board for higher education;

(3) "Department", department of higher education;

(4) "Dual credit courses", college level coursework delivered by a postsecondary education institution and taught in the high school by instructors with appropriate academic credentials to high school students who are earning high school and college credit simultaneously.

2. Each institution of higher education desiring to become or remain an approved dual credit provider in this state shall annually make written application to the board on forms furnished by the board. Such application shall include at a minimum the identification of all locations where the institution will offer dual credit courses, the courses the institution plans to offer, and the fee the institution will charge students per credit hour.

3. The department shall review the application and may conduct

21 an investigation of the applicant to ensure compliance with the rules
22 and regulations promulgated under this section. A dual credit course
23 may not be advertised or represented as being delivered by an
24 approved dual credit provider in the absence of approval of the
25 application by the board.

26 4. The department shall maintain a listing of all approved dual
27 credit providers and shall make that listing publicly available,
28 including through appropriate electronic media.

29 5. The board may promulgate administrative rules to implement
30 this section, including parameters for the approval of dual credit
31 providers and establishing appropriate fees as needed to generate
32 funding sufficient to cover the entirety of costs associated with
33 operation of the dual credit provider certification process established
34 in this section. Any rule or portion of a rule, as that term is defined in
35 section 536.010 that is created under the authority delegated in this
36 section shall become effective only if it complies with and is subject to
37 all of the provisions of chapter 536, and, if applicable, section
38 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are nonseverable and if any of
39 the powers vested with the general assembly pursuant to chapter 536,
40 to review, to delay the effective date, or to disapprove and annul a rule
41 are subsequently held unconstitutional, then the grant of rulemaking
42 authority and any rule proposed or adopted after August 28, 2016, shall
43 be invalid and void.

44 6. (1) There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Dual
45 Credit Certification Fund", which shall consist of money collected
46 under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund.
47 In accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, the state treasurer may
48 approve disbursements. The fund shall be a dedicated fund and money
49 in the fund shall be used solely by the department for the purpose of
50 funding the costs associated with the operation of the dual credit
51 certification process authorized by this section.

52 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080 to the
53 contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium
54 shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

55 (3) The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the
56 same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys
57 earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

173.2505. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Dual Credit Scholarship Act".

3 2. To be eligible to receive the dual credit scholarship, a student
4 shall:

5 (1) Be a United States citizen or permanent resident;

6 (2) Be a Missouri resident as defined by the coordinating board
7 for higher education pursuant to section 173.005;

8 (3) Be enrolled in a dual credit program offered by an approved
9 dual credit provider, as defined in section 173.2500;

10 (4) Have a cumulative high school grade point average of at least
11 two and a half on a four point scale or equivalent; and

12 (5) Meet one or more of the following indicators of economic
13 need:

14 (a) Be individually eligible to be enrolled in a federal free or
15 reduced-price lunch program, based on income levels established by the
16 United States Department of Agriculture;

17 (b) Reside in a foster home, be a ward of the state, or be
18 homeless; or

19 (c) Receive low-income public assistance, such as the
20 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or the Special
21 Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
22 (WIC), or live in federally subsidized public housing.

23 3. The dual credit scholarship is hereby created to provide
24 financial assistance to high school students enrolling in dual credit
25 courses offered by an approved dual credit provider as defined in
26 section 173.2500. The coordinating board may promulgate rules for the
27 administration of the program including establishing the application,
28 eligibility, and payment procedures. Any rule or portion of a rule, as
29 that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under the
30 authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
31 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and,
32 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
33 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
34 pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
35 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
36 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
37 adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

38 4. Subject to appropriation, the dual credit scholarship shall
39 reimburse eligible students for up to fifty percent of the tuition cost
40 paid by the student to enroll in a dual credit course offered by an
41 approved dual credit provider.

42 5. No student shall receive in excess of five hundred dollars
43 annually for all dual credit courses taken by such student.

44 6. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Dual Credit
45 Scholarship Fund", which shall consist of moneys appropriated to the
46 fund by the General Assembly and private donations made to the
47 fund. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund and shall
48 invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are
49 invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be
50 credited to the fund. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080
51 to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the
52 biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund.

 173.2510. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "15 to Finish Act".

3 2. The coordinating board for higher education, in cooperation
4 with public institutions of higher education in this state, shall develop
5 policies that promote the on-time completion of degree programs by
6 students. The policies shall include, but not be limited to:

7 (1) Defining on-time completion for specific levels of
8 postsecondary credentials;

9 (2) Providing financial incentives to students during their senior
10 year of undergraduate study who are on pace to graduate in no more
11 than eight semesters;

12 (3) Implementing banded tuition, whereby the total tuition cost
13 for up to seventeen credit hours is the same as for twelve credit hours;
14 and

15 (4) Reducing, when feasible and permitted by accreditation or
16 occupational licensure, the number of credit hours required to earn a
17 degree.

18 3. By December 1, 2017, the department of higher education shall
19 provide a report to the governor and the general assembly describing
20 the actions taken to implement these provisions.

 173.2515. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "Guided Pathways to Success Act".

3 2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

4 (1) "Degree maps", a list of all course sequences available to
5 fulfill the requirements for a specific degree program;

6 (2) "Meta-majors", a collection of academic programs that have
7 common or related courses;

8 (3) "Proactive advising", an advising model in which advisors
9 reach out to students in anticipation of their needs, connect students
10 with resources and support early in their studies, and motivate
11 students to succeed;

12 (4) "Structured schedule", a specific sequence of required and
13 elective courses each semester that, when taken as prescribed,
14 represent a direct path to complete a chosen program of study.

15 3. The coordinating board for higher education, in cooperation
16 with the state's colleges and universities, shall develop a guided
17 pathways to success pilot program. Guided pathways to success shall
18 include at least two of the following components:

19 (1) Majors organized into semester-by-semester sets of courses
20 that lead to on-time completion, which shall have the same meaning as
21 described pursuant to section 173.2510;

22 (2) Degree-based transfer pathways between participating
23 institutions to assist students who enroll in multiple institutions to
24 complete their degree;

25 (3) Available meta-majors to minimize the loss of credit due to
26 changes by students in their degree majors;

27 (4) Student commitment to a structured schedule of courses and
28 electives; and

29 (5) Clear degree maps, proactive advising and guarantees that
30 required courses are available when needed by students.

31 4. The department shall develop and publicly maintain materials
32 that describe the elements of Missouri's guided pathways to success
33 project and assist students in understanding the operation of each
34 component.

35 5. By January 1, 2020, the coordinating board shall report to the
36 governor and the general assembly on the outcomes of the pilot
37 program created in this section.

38 6. Based on the outcomes of the pilot program created in this
39 section, the coordinating board may request funding to provide

40 competitive grants to institutions of higher education to assist in
41 defraying the costs incurred to implement guided pathways to success
42 on a statewide basis.

43 7. The coordinating board for higher education shall establish by
44 administrative rule criteria and procedures for the application for, and
45 awarding of, grants authorized by this section. Any rule or portion of
46 a rule, as that term is defined in section 536.010 that is created under
47 the authority delegated in this section shall become effective only if it
48 complies with and is subject to all of the provisions of chapter 536, and,
49 if applicable, section 536.028. This section and chapter 536 are
50 nonseverable and if any of the powers vested with the general assembly
51 pursuant to chapter 536, to review, to delay the effective date, or to
52 disapprove and annul a rule are subsequently held unconstitutional,
53 then the grant of rulemaking authority and any rule proposed or
54 adopted after August 28, 2016, shall be invalid and void.

173.2520. 1. As used in this section, the term "concurrent
2 postsecondary enrollment" shall mean coordinated enrollment in
3 coursework at both a four-year and a two-year postsecondary
4 institution at the same time and for which the coursework is officially
5 recorded by both institutions.

6 2. The coordinating board for higher education shall establish a
7 concurrent enrollment pilot program for the purpose of providing
8 students with a broader range of academic and student support
9 services while streamlining the path to degree completion. The pilot
10 project will be implemented in one or more public four-year
11 institutions and one or more public two-year institutions. The pilot
12 program is intended to determine the feasibility of extending a
13 concurrent enrollment option to other institutions in the state.

14 3. By January 1, 2020, the coordinating board shall provide a
15 report to the governor and the general assembly on the outcomes of the
16 pilot program and provide a recommendation regarding the expansion
17 of the program statewide.

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